

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 10(A)(2)

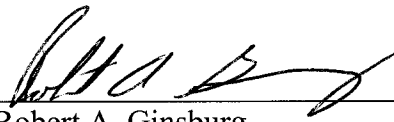
TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 1, 2005

FROM: Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Florida
Legislature to enact
legislation providing
access to immigrants
wishing to obtain Florida
driver's licenses

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro and Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.


Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

RAG/bw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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FROM: Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 10(A)(2)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- ☐ No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 10(A) (2)
2-1-05

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
ENACT LEGISLATION PROVIDING GREATER ACCESS TO
IMMIGRANTS WISHING TO OBTAIN FLORIDA DRIVER'S
LICENSES

WHEREAS, many immigrant families come to Miami-Dade County in search of a better life, often fleeing abusive, life-threatening situations in their home countries in search of refuge and the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, immigrants play an integral role in the state and local economy, particularly in such industries as agriculture, tourism and trade, which generate billions of tax dollars and are heavily fueled by the ingenuity of immigrant entrepreneurs and by the labor of immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, the United States 2000 Census reports that Miami-Dade County's population is over 50% foreign-born; and

WHEREAS, 85% of immigrant families with children contain some family members who are citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents, while other family members may be undocumented; and

WHEREAS, immigration policies are both complicated and selective and many undocumented immigrants do not immediately qualify for an immigration status; and

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of the immigrant population that contributes to our community is undocumented; and

WHEREAS, Florida's driver's license policy restricts access to driver's licenses to persons based on their federal immigration status; and

WHEREAS, without legal transportation options, immigrants often cannot fully participate in activities of daily living like other county residents, and are impeded in such daily activities as taking their children to school, going to work, and attending medical appointments; and

WHEREAS, limiting access to driver's licenses results in more unlicensed, untrained and uninsured drivers on our roads, severely endangering public safety and having an adverse affect on accident frequency and insurance rates for all drivers; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement is hindered when immigrants do not have valid identification, making people harder to identify by police and fire personnel; and

WHEREAS, treating people as terror suspects solely based on their federal immigration status encourages discrimination and leads to less community cooperation with law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, unlicensed drivers involved in accidents are more likely to flee the scene of an accident; and

WHEREAS, states such as New Mexico and Utah have realized the benefits to public safety of licensing all potential drivers by permitting the use of alternative means of identification and verification to qualify resident immigrant drivers to test for and obtain driver's licenses, without regard to their federal immigration status; and

WHEREAS, meaningful and useful driver's license reform would increase the percentage of county residents who are properly licensed, trained and insured, and increase public safety by maximizing the number of Florida residents with valid official identification; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Rodolfo García and State Representative Gustavo Barreiro plan to introduce legislation during the 2005 Florida Legislative Session that would allow access to driver's licenses in Florida for many undocumented immigrants,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. This Board supports legislation that would improve access to driver's licenses for immigrants.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Chair and members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs is directed to include this issue in the County's 2005 state legislative package.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro and Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dorin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

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The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of February, 2005. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

RJB

Ronald J. Bernstein